Investigation of misleading advertisements by MRTPC

1447. SHRI P.N. SIVA:
SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) is investigation into the cases of false and misleading advertisements in various States;

(b) if so, the outcome of the investigation, State-wise; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission has not ordered any investigation in terms of the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969 to be conducted by Director General of Investigation and Registration or Director (Research) relating to false and misleading advertisements. However, a number of unfair trade practices enquiries (UTPEs), which include complaints arising out of false and misleading advertisements, have been considered by the Commission. Number of such UTPEs pending during the last three years is as under:—

Unfair Trade Practice Enquiries (UTPEs)	1998	1999	2000
	1328	1273	1332

These cases are being enquired into by the Commission and are pending before the Commission at various stages of consideration.

Performance of Fast Track Courts

1448. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to evaluate the performance of the recently set up "fast Track Courts" to tackle the judicial arrears;

(b) if so, the results of the study;

(c) the extent to which these new courts fulfil the expectations of resolving quickly the problem of poor delivery system for Justice *vis-a-vis* the regular courts; and

(d) the fresh measures contemplated to make the Fast Track courts more effective?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The process of setting up of Fast Track Courts is still continuing as it involves construction of court rooms and the appointment of Judges by the State Governments and High Courts. In many states the required number of courts is yet to be set up. The progress is being monitored by the Central Government.

(c) The additional courts known as Fast Track Courts are augmenting the capacity of existing judicial system at the District level. However, this scheme of Fast Track courts is primarily meant for the clearance of the backlog of long pending sessions cases. The emphasis of these courts will be on the casses involving undertrials in jails. As per the information available, so far 57,234 cases have been transferred to the Fast Track courts. Out of them 16, 066 cases have been disposed of by them.

(d) As the required number of Fast Track Courts have not yet been set up by the State Governments, at present, the efforts of the Central Government are aimed towards pursuing the State Governments to set up the required number of Fast Track Courts as envisaged in the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

The matter regarding Fast Track Courts is also at present *sub judice* in the Supreme Court of India in the Transfer case (Civil) No. 22/2001, Brij Mohanlal Vs Union of India and Others and other similar cases.

Pending cases of Nidhi Companies

1449. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of Nidhi Companies which are pending in the Department for approval;

(b) whether it is a fact that even inspite of the new guidelines which have come into force the pendency of the cases have not improved;

(c) the reasons for this delay in clearing the pending applications; and